



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

# Question Tags in Family Conversations

Family and Relationships | Checking and inviting agreement | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

## 1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner. You may already use this grammar without noticing it.

No.	Question
1	How do people check information in conversation?
2	What might someone say after: 'You finished your homework, ...?'
3	How can question tags make a conversation sound friendlier?
4	When might family members use question tags?

## 2. Grammar in context

Read the text. The bold phrases show the grammar used in a natural topic context.

### Checking Plans at Home

Families often use question tags to check information. A parent might say, 'You **finished** your homework, **didn't you?**' before dinner.

A teenager might reply, 'We **are visiting** Grandma tomorrow, **aren't we?**' because they want to confirm the plan.

Question tags can also invite agreement. Someone might say, 'Communication **is** important in families, **isn't it?**' This sounds softer than making a blunt statement.

## 3. Notice the pattern

Use question tags to check information or invite agreement. A positive statement usually has a negative tag, and a negative statement usually has a positive tag.

Use	Form / signal	Example
Positive statement	negative tag	You finished your homework, didn't you?
Negative statement	positive tag	She isn't angry, is she?
Be verb	am/is/are/was/were	We are visiting Grandma, aren't we?
Other verbs	do/does/did	He likes his role model, doesn't he?

## 4. Build accurate sentences

Complete each sentence using the grammar focus. Then write two examples of your own.

No.	Prompt	Use	Your answer
1	You finished your homework, ___?	didn't you	
2	We are visiting Grandma tomorrow, ___?	aren't we	
3	She isn't upset, ___?	is she	
4	He talks to his parents often, ___?	doesn't he	

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Use it in exam answers

Complete the tasks using the grammar focus naturally.

Task	What to do
Speaking	Role-play a family conversation using question tags naturally.
Writing	Write a short dialogue between two family members using at least three question tags.
Reading	Underline question tags in the context text and match them to the verb tense.

## 6. Common mistakes

Correct the mistakes.

No.	Mistake	Your correction
1	You finished your homework, did you?	
2	We are visiting Grandma, don't we?	
3	She isn't upset, isn't she?	
4	He talks to his parents, isn't he?	

## 7. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

1. Do question tags make conversations sound friendlier?
2. How do family members check plans in your home?
3. Is communication always easy between teenagers and parents?
4. When can a question tag sound impatient or rude?

# Question Tags in Family Conversations

## 4. Build accurate sentences

1. You finished your homework, didn't you?
2. We are visiting Grandma tomorrow, aren't we?
3. She isn't upset, is she?
4. He talks to his parents often, doesn't he?

Own answers will vary. Check that the grammar focus is accurate and natural.

## 6. Common mistakes

1. You finished your homework, didn't you?
2. We are visiting Grandma, aren't we?
3. She isn't upset, is she?
4. He talks to his parents, doesn't he?

## Notes for checking

1. Positive statement: negative tag - You finished your homework, didn't you?
2. Negative statement: positive tag - She isn't angry, is she?
3. Be verb: am/is/are/was/were - We are visiting Grandma, aren't we?
4. Other verbs: do/does/did - He likes his role model, doesn't he?